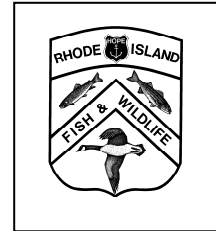




## RIDEM - DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

### TURKEY SEASON RESULTS SPRING 2011

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The 2011 Rhode Island spring turkey season was held April 28 to May 24, 2011 and was the State's twenty-sixth season since the spring season was initiated in 1986. Turkey hunters harvested 151 birds, a 6% decrease from a harvest of 161 birds taken during the 2010 season (table 1). The harvest includes 3 birds taken during the early junior hunter and paraplegic hunter seasons held April 23 and 24. The hunter success rate was 15 %. The harvest consisted of 68 juveniles (45% of harvest) and 83 adults (55% of harvest), a 0.8 to 1 juvenile to adult ratio in harvested birds. The 2011 season was a safe season with no hunting accidents occurring.

The restoration of the wild turkey has been a major success story in R.I. with turkey hunters enjoying excellent hunting opportunities. This year's decrease in harvest with relatively constant hunter effort supports a decrease in overall turkey population; however, the juvenile/adult age ratio is encouraging for improved hunting in future years. Turkeys were harvested in 20 of 39 towns around the state. The top five towns in harvest this year were Exeter (24), Richmond (14), West Greenwich (11), Glocester (10) and North Smithfield (9). Private land accounted for a majority of the harvested birds (84%); however, 24 birds were taken on ten different state wildlife management areas. Arcadia WMA in Exeter and Big River WMA in Coventry were the top producing state land areas. The first week of the season accounted for 55% of the harvest (83 birds), 28 % were taken during second week, 12 % during the third week and 5 % were taken during the fourth week.

Several large gobblers were harvested during the season including 58 birds that weighed in at over 20 pounds. The average live weight for juveniles was 15.4 pounds and the average live weight for adults was 20.4 pounds. The largest bird weighed was a four-year old 25 -pound gobbler with 1.4-inch spurs and 10 - inch beard harvested on private land in Smithfield. The state record is a 25.5-pound gobbler taken in 2001 in Exeter. Resident hunters took 96% (145 birds) compared to 4% (6 birds) for non-resident hunters.

<b>Town</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>26-Year total</b>
	(4/23-5/24)	(4/24-5/25)	(4/25-5/26)	(4/30-5/26)	(4/26-5-28)	4/27-5/29)	(4/28-5/26)	1986-2011
Burrillville	8	4	13	11	12	20	14	242
Charlestown	9	10	9	7	14	7	8	155
Coventry	5	6	13	15	8	16	12	183
Cranston	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	35
Cumberland	0	1						1
E. Greenwich	2	1	3	0	5	3	1	22
E. Providence	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Exeter	24	23	29	20	25	30	28	488
Foster	7	3	6	14	9	10	10	146
Glocester	10	15	13	20	17	18	17	222
Hopkinton	7	6	11	9	14	15	15	173
Johnston	0	1	0	2	3	7	3	31
Little Compton	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	6
Lincoln	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Middletown	0	0	2					2
Narragansett	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
N. Kingstown	10	7	15	9	10	15	6	104
N. Smithfield	9	10	13	10	9	4	6	105
Richmond	14	13	13	11	9	17	17	280
Scituate	8	11	15	11	7	19	18	213
S. Kingstown	11	11	10	21	17	14	18	152
Smithfield	8	12	17	15	11	7	8	148
Tiverton	3	7	7	5	4	4	3	36
Westerly	0	9	2	6	5	12	2	69
W. Greenwich	11	8	11	11	13	14	18	218
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>3035</b>